

TEAMLAMB & THE L.A.M.B.S. FOUNDATION



Photograph of Juneteenth celebrations in Richmond, Virginia, ca. 1905. [Source](#)

The History

June 19th became a federal U.S. holiday in 2021. This date, known as Juneteenth, commemorates the anniversary of Union troops arriving in Galveston, Texas in 1865 with an announcement of freedom for enslaved African-Americans. Though President Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation more than two years earlier on January 1, 1863, the news did not reach those enslaved in Texas until [General Gordon Granger](#) delivered [General Order Number 3](#). [Source](#)

Around Virginia

The Emancipation Oak stands near the entrance of the Hampton University campus and is a lasting symbol of the university's rich heritage and perseverance. In 1863, the members of the Virginia Peninsula's black community gathered to hear a prayer answered. The Emancipation Oak was the site of the first Southern reading of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. With limbs sprawling over a hundred feet in diameter, the Emancipation oak is designated as one of the 10 Great Trees of the World by the National Geographic Society. [Source](#).



EmancipationOak. Hampton University. [Source](#).

New Traditions: Miss. Tidewater

Though not a Juneteenth historical location, Seaview Beach and Amusement Park began when 21 local African-American businessmen helped to fund the construct of the first "coloreds only" amusement park in the area, which opened on May 30, 1945 on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.



Miss. Tidewater. [Source](#).

It was here where Seaview hosted many "Miss Seaview" and "Miss Tidewater" beauty competitions, both of which attracted crowds of over 1,000. Today at the Juneteenth at the Beach festival, this beauty competition was re-imagined as the "Return of The Miss. Tidewater Black Beauty Pageant". The winner in 2022 was Chandler Noel and for 2023, Taniiah. Juneteenth at the Beach will carry on this legacy in 2024. [Source](#).



Martha Yates Jones (left) and Pinkie Yates (right), daughters of Rev. Jack Yates, in a decorated carriage in front of a house, 1908 — [Source](#)

Old Traditions: The Decorated Carriage

Newly freed African Americans in Texas attended Juneteenth celebrations in flower decorated carriages. The carriages represented their travels towards freedom. Today, Juneteenth celebrations and parades are filled with decorated vehicles in tribute of those who traveled generations before us.



Juneteenth band in Eastwoods Park, Austin, 1900. [Source](#)

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